FY 2011 HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS
REQUESTED PROJECTS
HONORABLE SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
TX-27

(alphabetical order by project name)

Project Name: Brownsville Emergency Operation Center Enhancement
Recipient: Brownsville, City of
2600 Central Blvd.
Brownsville, TX 78520

$2,000,000 in federal funding is requested in for this project which will provide funding needed for enhancements to the building housing the City of Brownsville Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which is critical to the continuity of government activities of the largest city in the region. Local, regional, and state emergency management personnel rely upon the City of Brownsville and its resources and trained personnel during periods of emergency and/or disaster. This project will allow this facility to be hardened to withstand winds of a Category 5 hurricane impact and will enhance the ability to sustain operations before, during, and after a hurricane or severe weather event in the City and the Lower Rio Grande Valley. During times of emergency, the City of Brownsville EOC is continuously up and running, however, when needed, it also serves as a backup location for the Lower Rio Grande Valley Multi Agency Communication Center (MACC) located in McAllen for Texas Disaster District 21. In the event the McAllen facility is inaccessible or must relocate, the MACC emergency operations team along with the Texas Division of Emergency Management Regional Liaison Officer for District 21 and other regional resources would relocate to the Brownsville Emergency Operations Center to coordinate emergency operations for the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Additional agreements provide the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Brownsville the ability to relocate their staff to the Brownsville EOC in the event of a major disruption of their facility, ensuring uninterrupted critical weather forecasting to residents and emergency responders throughout Texas' eight southernmost counties.

Project Name: Cameron County Drainage Improvement Project
Recipient: Cameron County Precinct 4
201 N. T Street
Harlingen, Texas 78550

$29,818,296 in federal funding is requested for this project. Most, if not all of the Precinct 4 area in Cameron County received anywhere from 12 to 16 inches of rain during and immediately following Hurricane Dolly. Following the Hurricane, the area surrounding Tamm Lane, Tio Cano, Rancho Grande, and La Tina was submerged under water for 30 plus days. Due to an already overly saturated ground and the drainage ditches not being able to handle the amount of rain that was experienced, residents in this area experienced anywhere from 1 to 3 feet of water

in their homes for up and over to 30 days, creating lagoon-like conditions and hindering access in or out of homes and neighborhoods. The stagnant waters posed not only access problems to residents and their homes, but it also posed a severe health issue.

With a poverty rate of 16.2%, Texas has the 5th highest poverty rate in the U.S. The worst poverty in Texas occurs in both isolated rural counties of the southern and western regions of Texas and in heavily populated major cities. Cameron County has a poverty rate of 29.4%, followed only by a few counties along the Texas/Mexico border.

Project Name: South Padre Island Police Emergency Operations Center Project
Recipient: South Padre Island, City of
4501 Padre Boulevard
South Padre Island, TX 78597

$1,250,000 is requested in federal funding for this project. The existing Emergency Operations Center for the City of South Padre Island was built 29 years ago. As the City's population continues to age, first responder calls have begun to take up more time and resources.

As a coastal barrier island, the location of the current EOC presents several design challenges including hurricane force winds and flooding. Not only did the current outdated EOC facility suffer structural damage from Hurricane Dolly in July 2008, but the City lacks a centralized facility to properly respond to the public's needs.

The City is seeking to establish a centralized facility to include a technological and modernized emergency response infrastructure system, with the ability to provide resources to all emergency services personnel during a disaster. This EOC initiative will also include state of the art mobile units to allow emergency service personnel to properly evacuate the Island during a major storm, and continue to provide service from a more secure area. In addition, the new EOC will be designed to handle 125 MPH wind loads and the site must be elevated to get the station above flood level.